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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Effective 15 February 1949 an Abteilung Bereitschaften (Paramilitary Police Department) will be activated in the Berlin East Sector Police Praesidium. This department is designed to become the staff of the four Soviet Zone paramilitary police (Bereitschaften) which are now permanently stationed in Berlin. On 11 February, at a formal meeting in the office of Soviet Sector Police President Paul Markgraf on Neue Königstrasse in the Soviet Sector of Berlin, the key personnel of the Abteilung Bereitschaften were given their assignments and officially instructed to commence operations on 15 February 1949.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: The presence of the four Bereitschaften in the Soviet Sector of Berlin was previously reported and confirmed.)

2. The Table of Organization for the Paramilitary Police Department of the East Sector Police Praesidium has been approved by the SMA. It provides for a Chief (Leiter) and a 1st and a 2nd Deputy on the command level. The 1st Deputy is the Polit-Kultur (P/K) representative, in charge of political indoctrination and ideological supervision of the Bereitschaften personnel. The P/K representative is actually not carried on the T/O of the Abteilung Bereitschaften, but is rather a member of the Präsidialabteilung (Chancellory) of the East Sector Police Praesidium. The P/K representative reports directly to Police Vice President Lehmann, who is himself the P/K representative for the Police Praesidium.
3. The 2nd Deputy of the Abteilung Bereitschaften bears the designation "Ausbildungsleiter" (Chief of Training). He is charged with the direction and control of training of the four Bereitschaften. He is directly responsible for the training of the officers and non-commissioned personnel. He is supposed to issue training directives and keep himself informed on the state of training of subordinate units. Under operational conditions he heads the Operations Section.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: This designation (i.e., Chief of Training) does not cover the full range of the 2nd Deputy's functions, because he is, in fact, Chief of Staff and would, in an emergency, direct operations.

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The designation "Ausbildungsleiter" was apparently chosen to play down this fact. In "Abteilung GP/B" (Border and Paramilitary Police) of Saxony the 2nd Deputy is called "Stabschef" (Chief of Staff), which describes his position correctly.)

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: The arrangement under which the 1st Deputy is always the Polit-Kultur representative while the 2nd Deputy acts as functional second-in-charge is typical of all police organizations in the Soviet Zone.)

4. The Quartermaster (Leiter Wirtschaft) has under him six assistants, one for billets and equipment, one for uniforms, two for finances, two for rations. In addition there is one specialist (Sachbearbeiter) each for motor vehicles, weapons, and the "secretariat". The latter has three assistants, one for training matters, one for personnel affairs, and one for the registry. The complete authorized strength of the Department is 18 officers and 3 secretaries.
5. The Abteilungs Leiter and his two deputies now carry the rank of "Oberinspektor" and will be promoted to "Kommissar" when the Abteilung Bereitschaft becomes operative.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: The U. S. Army equivalent of these rank designations would be Captain for Oberinspektor and Major for Kommissar.)

6. The four Berlin Bereitschaften are numerically designated: Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4. Nos. 1 and 2 are composed of Berlin personnel, Nos. 3 and 4 were brought up from Saxony shortly before the Berlin city elections on 5 December 1948. Bereitschaft No. 1 is now quartered in the Gesellschaftshaus, Regatta Strasse, Berlin-Grünau; No. 2 in the building formerly occupied by the Police School in Berlin-Oberschöne-weide, Nos. 3 and 4 are billeted in the school building, Bruno Wille Strasse 35, Berlin-Friedrichshagen. (All three addresses are in the Borough of Köpenick.) The four Bereitschaften are slated to be quartered as a unit in the old military barracks in Berlin-Treptow some time in April, as soon as the renovation of the barracks is completed.
7. The authorized strength of each Bereitschaft is 250 men, broken down into four platoons: one machine-gun platoon armed with five machine guns; one machine-pistol platoon, one section of which is armed with the Deutsche Sturmgewehre 44, and the remaining two sections with "K-98" carbines; two rifle platoons armed with carbines. No heavier equipment has been issued to any of the Berlin Bereitschaften, nor is training in the use of heavier weapons envisaged. Special training courses in the use of machine guns are given in the general area of West Prignitz. One or two men from each Bereitschaft have been detached for special machine-gun training.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: This confirms information previously received from independent sources.)

8. By and large the state of training of the four Bereitschaften is poor. This is especially the case of the two Saxon Bereitschaften; personnel for these was for the most part drafted from among industrial laborers in Saxony, and was selected according to political standards. The Berlin Bereitschaften (Nos. 1 and 2) on the other hand, were recruited from the ranks of the Berlin Schutzpolizei (uniformed constabulary), and special emphasis was placed on previous military training in their selection. Discipline among the enlisted grades is very unsatisfactory, and morale is poor. There are numerous instances of personnel being absent without leave, especially among the Saxony Bereitschaften, who have not been granted leave since the beginning of the year and do not expect to have any granted until the tactical training program has been completed at the end of March.

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9. Among officers and non-commissioned officers age classes up to and including 1910 are represented. The average age of the privates (Polizeianwärter) is between 18 and 25 years. The state of health of the Bereitschaft personnel is good.

25X1A **Comment:** In assessing the state of morale, allowance should be made for the fact that between 50% and 70% of the personnel were motivated exclusively by economic considerations in joining the paramilitary police. This was especially the case in Saxony, where recruits had been led to believe that service in the Bereitschaften was likely to be a soft job. When machine guns were issued some units first refused to accept them, because it had been their understanding that there would be no "re-militarization of Germany under Soviet rule". Another contributing factor to poor morale is the rank and file's awareness that relations between them and the population are steadily worsening. They attribute this to the circumstance that they wear the same uniform as the regular Schutzpolizei, which is courting unpopularity by conducting searches of civilians suspected of carrying "contraband".)

10. The training program of the Bereitschaften is as follows: From 1 January until 31 March they will be trained in tactical police work. Included in this basic training period will be six hours of political indoctrination and four hours of rifle range work weekly. Until now the training has consisted almost entirely of close order drill; there has been no extended order drill or field training. Police tactical training is deficient because the non-commissioned personnel, almost without exception, lack an even elementary knowledge of tactical problems. This applies particularly to the Saxon personnel; in the case of the Berlin units the military background of the NCOs presents a more hopeful picture. For instance in Bereitschaft No. 1 all officers and non-commissioned officers had had military training. In the Saxony units approximately 50% of the officers and NCOs have had military experience up to and including the rank of "Kriegsunteroffizier" (equivalent to a temporary non-commissioned officer in the U. S. Army). After the completion of police tactical training on 31 March 1949, two weeks' leaves will be granted. At any given time during April no more than 50% of the full strength will be present for duty in Berlin. In April, section training is scheduled to commence. In May the Bereitschaften will be trained in platoon strength and in June in strength of Bereitschaft. As yet no plans have been made for unit training and maneuvers beyond the Bereitschaft. It is anticipated that as of July the units will be sufficiently trained to be committed to tactical tasks, such as industrial police work, clearing areas of hostile elements, and so forth.

25X1A **Comment:** In drawing up training directives -- nothing has been committed to writing as yet -- all reference to training in military tactics or street combat has been avoided. This, however, must not be construed as ruling out the possibility that Bereitschaften may later be assigned military tasks.)

11. Political training is in the hands of the 1st Deputy Chief of Abteilung Bereitschaft, of the 1st Deputy Chiefs (Polit/Kultur representatives) of the Bereitschaften, and of the platoon Polit/Kultur representatives, in descending order. The latter are for the most part of meager intellectual capacity and usually incapable of expressing themselves coherently. Occasionally the Bereitschaft's representative will give a lecture to the whole Bereitschaft. No Soviet representatives have lectured thus far. The political training schedule, extending over six hours a week, covers, of course, the teachings of Lenin and Marx. On three days every week, half an hour is set aside for the so called newspaper review, devoted to a discussion of topical events. The historical lectures treat such controversial issues as the problem of the Oder-Neisse line.

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Comment: It was noted with surprise that some of the students during question time voiced strong objections to the permanency of Germany's eastern border. Source is certain, however, that after a year of concentrated training most of the Bereitschaft personnel will fall in line politically.)

12. There are no clear indications as yet of a systematic informant net having been organized within the Bereitschaften. The Polit/Kultur representatives, however, have begun to draw politically reliable non-commissioned officers into discussion groups where they are given special political training.

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Comment: This can be considered the nucleus of a cadre of political activists within the Bereitschaften. It should not be confused, however, with the training cadres that are being organized for the purposes of activating additional Bereitschaften.)

13. Personalities: The ranking Soviet officer for Bereitschaft matters is one Colonel Zhukov (fnu), with offices in the Central Komendatura in Luisenstrasse (Soviet Sector). The Chief of Abteilung Bereitschaft is Oberinspektor Sigmund (fnu), and his 1st Deputy is Oberinspektor Schroeder. Schroeder, about thirty-seven, in civilian life a baker, was a prisoner of war in the U.S.S.R. for seven years. In the German Army he never advanced above the rank of private. He is a graduate of a Soviet indoctrination camp. He has not been trained in the Advanced Police School of the GAI. Schroeder is apparently a fanatical Communist. The Ausbildungsleiter (Chief of Staff) is a former major of the German Army, Heimann (fnu). A PW in the U.S.S.R., he was returned to Germany in September 1948 as a member of the first group of ranking German officers selected for police jobs in the Soviet Zone. Nothing is known about his political views. Chief of Wirtschaft (Quartermaster) is Oberinspektor Triloff (fnu); of Weapons and Equipment, Oberinspektor Jobke (fnu); of Motor Vehicles, Oberinspektor Kapinski (fnu). Most of the posts in Abteilung Bereitschaft have not as yet been filled.

- 25X1A Comment: The above information on the organization of the paramilitary police in Berlin closely corresponds with, and confirms,

25X1A which described the organization of a basic paramilitary police "Bereitschaft" in Land Brandenburg.)

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